

topic of the Hudson application, the IGMS would agree only to discuss land acquisitions generally. Interior representatives said they could not discuss the Hudson application due to the ongoing litigation.<sup>512</sup> Despite IGMS's expressed desire to avoid the topic of the Hudson denial, some members of the applicant tribes believed that discussion at the meeting would include the topic of the denial.<sup>513</sup> Fred Havenick thought the purpose of the meeting was for Interior to suggest ways in which the applicants could perfect their application should they decide to re-submit it, but understood that they must avoid discussing the actual lawsuit with DOI.

Skibine arrived late for the land acquisition meeting, arriving during the question and answer session. About 20 members of the applicant tribes and Havenick were present.

Witnesses generally recall that the questioning and discussion became heated at some points.

Skibine recalls the mood in the room as tense and unpleasant, and stated that many of the questions, although phrased generically, seemed designed to raise Hudson. He noted, however, that the questions seemed more intended to address what might happen to a re-submission of the

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<sup>512</sup>Skibine expressed his intent to avoid the topic of the Hudson denial in internal e-mails to other IGMS staff. Skibine also emphasized this to one of the LCO tribe members who arranged the meeting in more than one telephone conversation. Skibine also brought a lawyer from the DOI Solicitor's Office with him to help ensure statements were not made regarding the litigation.

<sup>513</sup>Invitations sent by the LCO leadership to the Mole Lake and Red Cliff tribes contained wording that probably added to this confusion. The first invitations read, in part: "[the IGMS staff] have suggested they come to Wisconsin . . . to meet only with the Chippewa tribes interested in acquiring off reservation land for purposes of establishing a casino, specifically, Hudson." Letter from Raymond Wolf to Arlyn Ackley and Rose Gurnoe, Nov. 7, 1996. The IGMS staffer coordinating the visit said she objected to this language in the letter and insisted that a corrected invitation be sent removing any reference to Hudson. A revised invitation complying with that request was sent.